

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 **(Canceled)**

2. **(Currently amended)** An image reader comprising:

a supply roller for delivering a sheet material out of stacked sheets;

a first separation roller;

a second separation roller and a third separation roller provided on a shaft of said first separation roller;

a retardation roller containing a torque limiter, said retardation roller nipping the sheet material in collaboration with said first separation roller; and

a pair of corrugation rollers provided on a shaft of said retardation roller at respective locations corresponding to a place between said first separation roller and said second separation roller, and a place between said first separation roller and said third separation roller.

3. **(Original)** The image reader of claim 2, wherein said corrugation rollers are eccentric to the shaft of said retardation roller.

4. **(Currently amended)** A sheet feeder comprising:

a supply roller for delivering a sheet material out of stacked sheets;

a first separation roller;

a second separation roller and a third separation roller provided on a shaft of said first separation roller,

a retardation roller containing a torque limiter, said retardation roller nipping the sheet material in collaboration with said first separation roller; and

a pair of corrugation rollers provided on a shaft of said retardation roller at respective locations corresponding to a place between said first separation roller and said second separation roller, and a place between said first separation roller and said third separation roller.

5. **(Original)** The sheet feeder of claim 4, wherein said corrugation rollers are eccentric to the shaft of said retardation roller.

Claim 6 **(Canceled)**

7. **(Currently amended)** A sheet feeder comprising:
a supply roller for delivering a sheet material out of ~~the~~ stacked sheets; and
a pair of rollers ~~consisting of~~ comprising a separation roller and a retardation roller;
a ~~pluralities~~ plurality of torque limiters, each of said torque ~~limiter~~ limiters having a different torque value and being disposed between said retardation roller and a shaft for driving the retardation roller; ~~and~~
switching means for switching among said ~~pluralities~~ plurality of torque limiters; and
detecting means for detecting a thickness of said sheet material, said detecting means
controlling said switching means in accordance with the thickness of said sheet material.

8. **(Currently amended)** The sheet feeder of claim 7, wherein said switching means engages said shaft with respective torque limiters in accordance with a revolving direction of said shaft.

9. **(Original)** The sheet feeder of claim 7, further comprising means for adjusting a nipping force between said separation roller and said retardation roller in accordance with a switching conducted by said switching means.

Claim 10 **(Canceled)**

11. **(Currently amended)** The image reader of claim 2, further comprising:
a reading glass plate provided in an optical scanning system, said reading glass plate being provided with an electroconductive layer on a surface thereof; and

a ~~plate~~ platen roller opposing to said reading glass plate, said platen roller being in contact with an electricity escaping brush.